

November Meeting

**Friday, November 21
7:30 pm**

**MARS Operations
Maury Valkema, AAA9CN**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA**

Maury will give an overview of MARS operations. This talk was postponed from the September meeting.

Scout Jamborees at Pacificon: Looking Back and Looking Forward

By Jim Berry, KE6IZP

On behalf of our local Boy Scout Council, Mike, KB6USJ, and I would like to thank MDARC and the Pacificon committee for once again hosting Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet. This year we had over 100 Scouts and visitors attend, and they came away with some very positive impressions of ham radio.

This annual world-wide Jamboree is a win for both Scouts and ham radio, and we're fortunate that it coincides with Pacificon. It offers Scouts the opportunity to converse with other Scouts from around the world, and at the same time it exposes them to a hobby they might not otherwise experience. And this exposure to our hobby comes to them at the same age that many of us were at when we first got interested in ham radio.

Mike and I have always run JOTA on HF. We have been fortunate in the past few years and have enjoyed some outstanding propagation, courtesy of Old Man Sun. And we've made some exciting contacts that really piqued the Scouts' interest.

But those days are coming to an end, and we need to find some other avenues besides HF. I can tell you from personal experience that calling CQ JOTA for half an hour, only to have static come out of the headphones is deadly-dull, and guaranteed to kill whatever interest a young person might have had in ham radio.

So, if any of you have any ideas about what we can do next year to keep the interest up, we're all ears. The main requirements are that:

- It must involve radio to the greatest extent possible. We already have Jamboree on the Internet. We're not ruling out things like VoIP, but radio should be a visible and necessary part of the link.
- Scouts should be able to talk to other Scouts. The emphasis here is on *talk*—it's easier and more fun than keyboarding, and not as arcane as CW.
- DX—Scouts get a kick out of looking at a map and seeing how far away the person is that they're talking to. Plus, the cultural differences make for some interesting conversations.

Some of the things that we've heard mentioned (or thought about) are satellite, Echolink, and IRLP. We're sure there must be other things as well. This hobby has so many facets to it, that we're probably overlooking some really attractive ones.

So, how about it? Right now, we're just looking for ideas. You can email me at jimberry@hotmail.com.

Happy Halloween MDARC

By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

The main focus for October was Pacificon. Thank you volunteers for your dedication and a devotion to detail. Pacificon was a major success. Some volunteers worked all weekend and many have done so from the first Pacificon. The new location at the San Ramon Marriott was great and we all look forward to the same location next year. There were some problems with parking that were unexpected, but we hope to remedy that next year.

MDARC held the October general meeting at the San Ramon Marriott and we had two great presentations from Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, and Dean Straw, N6BV. The raffle prize was a 5 watt dual band handheld and it was won by Trevor Raty, KG6MDW.

The sale of ICOM 706MKIIG tickets was completed and the winning ticket was won by Misty Carson of Vallejo. Thank you everyone that bought a ticket.

The next meeting is November 21 at Our Saviors Lutheran church and the speaker is Maury Valkema, AAA9CN. From the call sign you can see the subject is MARS operations.

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 932-6125

The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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Club Officers

President

David McIntyre, KG6ACD (925) 625-1829
prinz@pacbell.net

Vice President

Trevor Hall, WA6JAU (925) 680-5209
wa6jau@netzero.net

Secretary

Dick Schulze, AA6DL

Treasurer

Harold Johnsen, AE6FC (925) 287-1054
ae6fc@arrrl.net

Emergency Coordinator

Dana Jones, K6BRR

Directors

Howard Burk, KE6PTT (925) 279-7208
ke6ptt@arrrl.net

Jay Caldis, KT6Y (925) 939-1893
jcaldis@astound.net

John Pascale, NN6E (925) 625-9356

Harold Johnsen, AE6FC (925) 287-1054
ae6fc@arrrl.net

Membership Chairman

Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q (925) 938-3867
coin@odonoghue.com

Carrier Editor

Jerry Gardner, W6UV (925) 735-7325
carrier@gardnerclan.net

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73 Magazine Says "73 and QRT"

ARRL

After completing 43 years of publication, *73 Amateur Radio Today* magazine is calling it quits. Plans to publish a joint October/November issue fell through this week, and the September 2003 issue was the magazine's last. According to self-proclaimed "El Supremo and Founder" Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD, it was a simple matter of economics.

"After failing a last minute effort to collect on some larger accounts receivable we decided yesterday to throw in the towel—that the September issue will have to be the last."

More Morse Code-Related Petitions

ARRL

The FCC has sounded the bell to begin Round 2 of the Morse code debate by inviting public comment on another group of seven Morse-related petitions for rulemaking. The FCC put the petitions on public notice October 8, and comments are due by November 7. Members of the amateur community may make their opinions known on any or all of these filings using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

Full details may be found on the ARRL web page.

Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

Thanks to all of the volunteers who worked the Mt. Diablo Challenge this year. I think I speak for all of my fellow participants in saying this. We really appreciated the support.

After using PageMaker for the last seven years for page layout, including the *Carrier*, I've switched to Adobe InDesign. Aside from being a much more modern and capable program, InDesign runs in native mode under Mac OS X. As I've totally redone the *Carrier* layout in InDesign, subtle errors may have crept in that have escaped my scrutiny. If you notice anything that doesn't look right, please let me know.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, the FCC is yet again considering petitions to water down the amateur radio licensing requirements. In my opinion, this is an extremely bad idea. The goal, apparently, of these petitions is to lower the perceived entry "barrier" and increase the ranks of radio amateurs. While this may be a worthwhile goal, I think this is the wrong way to go about it. In my 23 years as an amateur, I've seen the requirements steadily eroded to the point where pretty soon you'll find licenses distributed as prizes in boxes of Cracker Jack.

I'm also sad to see the demise of *73 Magazine*. *73* was always my favorite ham magazine, and I'll miss it. The founder, Wayne Green, is quite a character, as anyone who's read his lengthy editorials in *73* will attest. Wayne also founded some of the earliest computer magazines, including *Byte*, *Kilobaud*, *InCider*, and *80 Microcomputing*.

Board Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2003

Meeting called to order by President Dave McIntyre, KG6ACD. Quorum Formed by the following board members present: Dave McIntyre, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, John Pascale, NN6E, Dana Jones, K6BRR, and Jay Caldis, KT6Y

Minutes of Last Board Meeting Approved. Motion made to approve by John Pascale, seconded by Dana Jones.

Technical Committee Report: Trevor Hall gave report of the last tech committee meeting. The trailer was taken to the San Ramon Marriott for ATV tests. The location at the hotel was worked out and connections to the hotel TV system were worked out. A work party properly installed the air condi-

tioner and sealed out the weather. Two new 440 MHz Hustler antennas were purchased by Keith Lattin, N6PMF, to replace the broken antennas on Diablo. This antenna purchase was approved on the budget for the last two years, so no further approval was necessary. Keith recommended that the club pay for a DSL speed increase for Tim Kirkpatrick, because demand put on his connection by Mt. Diablo traffic is severely affecting his connection. No price was presented so no motion was made for approval. Voter project is progressing.

Pacificon: Dick Brown gave report. Meeting Friday October 10, 2003 at 4:00pm scheduled at hotel for review of facilities. Ticket sales are ahead of last year. License class has 28 people signed up. Trailer location can only be finalized by the hotel event manager. This will be discussed at the hotel meeting on Friday. Jim Tittle talked to hotel technology director and TV channels are available on the hotel TV system.

Storage Unit: Keith Lattin reported that the price of a public storage unit for club property would cost \$49.00 a month. A motion for the acquisition of a storage unit after a property custodian is established was made by John Pascale, and seconded by Dana Jones. This motion was approved by the board. The Martinez police department has requested that the club trailer be stored on city property. A location has been picked that has good access, security, and drainage.

Treasurers Report: Harold Johnson, AE6FC, reported account totals to the board. Harold said more funds would have to be transferred to the checking account, because bills need to be paid. Dick Brown, KT6X, offered to pay back the \$3500 dollar loan given to Pacificon earlier in the year.

Flashlights: George Roush, WB6OFH, purchased forty three flashlights approved by the board in September. He suggested ten of them be given out to people that purchase 706 raffle tickets, or possibly give some new members a flashlight. No motion was made or approved.

Emergency Services: Dana Jones reported that an emergency drill is scheduled for October 9 with shifts scheduled for 10:00am to 2:00pm, and 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the EOC. The emergency drill is scheduled to be a plane crash. Contact Dana Jones to volunteer time. A Hospital Drill is scheduled for November 13 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Contact Tracy Schwartz, KE6TOT. San Ramon Comm Van 131 is scheduled to be at Pacificon. Location for van has been approved by the hotel. Rossmoor has approved the installation of an emergency RACES station at their club house. The radio has already been purchased by the Rossmoor association.

Raffle: John Pascale reported that 79 of the 300 tickets for the ICOM 706MKIIG have been purchased so far. It was recommended that the 706 be put on display at Pacificon, but it was turned down for security reasons. It was requested that a cardboard model of a 706 be displayed and Trevor Hall will try to acquire one from HRO before Pacificon. If all the tickets are sold at Pacificon, the winning ticket will be drawn at the ARRL forum. A motion was made by John Pascale to raise the purchase limit to \$200 dollars for the October club raffle prize. The motion was seconded by Trevor Hall and approved by the board. It was requested to bring five flashlights to the club meeting.

Budget: President Dave McIntyre requested that all committee's prepare 2004 budget requests and present them at the November board meeting.

Field Day: John Pascale volunteered to chair field day for 2004. All paperwork had been turned in for the 2003 field day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Sincerely Trevor Hall Vice President.

General Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2003

Meeting was called to order by MDARC president Dave McIntyre, KG6ACD.

The meeting was held at the Pacificon Convention Hotel, the San Ramon Marriott. The attendees were asked if business could be suspended until the next general meeting, because of a full planned presentation.

The meeting was turned over to Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, for a video presentation on amateur radio service events. Pete showed an approximately half hour DVD presentation of three service events. Pete showed all aspects of service events.

Next the meeting was turned over to Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, to introduce the speaker of the evening, Dean Straw, N6BV. Dean is a technical editor for the ARRL and he gave a very informative presentation on contest operation. MDARC presented Dean with an award of appreciation for his presentation.

Next, the MDARC raffle ticket was drawn for the prize of the night, an ICOM IC-Q7H dual-band handheld. It was won by Trevor Raty, KG6MDW.

Last, the first Pacificon raffle was held and recorded.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm

Sincerely Trevor Hall Vice President



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October 7, 2003

Re: Second Annual Pittsburg Marina
Canoe/Kayak/Surfski/Outrigger Championships
October 4, 2003

Dear Drew Hanson

I want to thank you for your support and interest for the Second Annual Pittsburg Marina Canoe/Kayak/Surfski/Outrigger Championships October 4, 2003. Supporting this Event will help Keep this an Annual Tradition for Your Beautiful Marina and Great City Of Pittsburg. We are already working on next years Event as the Athletes and the Sport of Paddling continues to grow in Our Area. Again Thank You for Your Support and Hope to see You At the Races to Feel the Excitement and Share The Experience This Great Sport Of Paddling has to Offer.

Sincerely Yours,

John E. Burkin
Tri-Canoe USA, Inc.

443 Bifrost Avenue ★ Pleasant Hill, California 94523 ★ Tel: (925) 691-9603 ★ Fax: (925) 686-9523
www.Tri-CanoeUSA.com

The Tower

An insurance company asked for more information regarding a work-related accident claim. This was the response...

"I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. I am an amateur radio operator, and was working on the top section of my new 80 foot tower.

"When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items using a pulley.

"Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools into a small barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools.

"You will note in block 11 of the accident report that I weigh 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.

"I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

"I regained my presence of mind, and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now

weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11.

"As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations on my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools, so only three vertebrae were cracked.

"I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watched the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope..."

Be your own Repairman By Alex Coulter, WB6ZWG

When that Hi-Tech piece of Ham equipment fails to operate, these six basic steps will avoid inflated factory service charges, while giving you the satisfaction of "do-it-yourself" repair at minimal savings.

1. Reflect complete confidence as you approach the ailing equipment. Anyone present will be impressed, and the equipment will mistakenly think that you know exactly what must be done. When the equipment realizes that you have enough tools to construct a hydrogen bomb, it should begin working and you will be credited with the repair. If this step fails, you should proceed with confidence to the next step.

2. Visit your neighborhood library and check out a textbook on the fundamentals of radio theory. Make yourself comfortable close to the ailing piece of Ham equipment so it can see what you are reading. Proceed slowly from page-to-page and give the appearance that you are absorbing the book's content with thorough comprehension. If this deception should fail to do the trick, proceed to step three.

3. This is a drastic step and should only be attempted after step one and two have failed. This effort should never be tried if your wife and children are present. After referring to the ARRL Handbook to be certain you have all the facts, begin reciting Ohm's law to the equipment. If this is done in an aggressive, and violent manner, the equipment will know beyond a shadow of a doubt

continued on page 6

Be Your Own Repairman

continued from page 5

that you know something and will probably attack it while in an unbalanced frame of mind.

4. We all know that a poor, or porous solder connection can cause problems that may be detected by a slight jarring action. This may require anything from a two- to a ten-foot drop, preferably on a cement floor. Care should be taken to avoid chipping the cement. Although this is an approved diagnostic procedure, it is also a drastic step. If it should fail, you may advance to step five as an alternative.

5. With our infinite technological knowledge of electronic devices, we may suspect one or more components to be faulty. In keeping with the do-it-yourself, repair process, we choose to randomly replace a few transistors, resistors, diodes, capacitors and a tube or two. With a fragile circuit board removed, and firmly clamped in our shop vise, we approach our delicate repair with a flaming blowtorch and acid-core solder. If we didn't know why the radio failed to work prior to step five, we do now. This takes us to our last step.

6. After installing the damaged circuit board, pack the ailing piece of junk carefully for shipment to the manufacturer. The following not should be included.... "Dear Manufacturing Company;" "This radio is exactly as it was the day I purchased it. I have followed your operating instructions to the letter, but it refuses to perform as advertised. Since today is only one day over the extended warranty, I am returning it so you can repair the shoddy workmanship, or replace the unit with a new model at no charge to me. Since I am lacking the technical knowledge and proper tools, I would not attempt any nature of repair. Therefore, I must rely on your willingness to address this issue with consideration for customer satisfaction."

"Sincerely,

Mr. Craf T. Goodfellow, RUITOO"

Amateurs Aid Agencies in California Fire Emergency

(October 8, 2003) ARRL

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams are assisting local authorities and relief organizations as fire has burned more than 500,000 acres in southern California. Authorities report 11 separate fires have erupted and more than a dozen people have died.

ARRL San Diego Section Manager Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, estimated that about 100 ham ARES and RACES volunteers are participating in his section, where most of the fatalities took place. Amateurs are supporting the Red Cross and The Salvation Army and staffing six shelters throughout San Diego county. Additional hams have deployed to San Diego-area emergency management offices and hospitals.

Communication is mainly taking place on VHF. The San Diego ARES Net has been activated on 7.233 MHz with 3.905 MHz as a backup. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) also has been using 7.233 MHz as a coordinating frequency.

San Diego-Area SATERN Coordinator Paul Cook, N6RPF, reports that SATERN has helped with communication for a number of busy canteens in the San Diego area.

In San Bernardino County, Orange SM Carl Gardenias, WU6D, said ARES volunteers have been supporting emer-

gency communication in the county.

ARRL Los Angeles SM Phineas Icenbice, W6BF, reports ARES members from his section have been assisting volunteers in the Orange and San Diego Sections. Los Angeles SEC Dennis Smith, KA6GSE, says ARES volunteers from the section also are helping at Red Cross shelters in LA.

BPL Startup Sparks ARRL Response

(October 23, 2003) ARRL

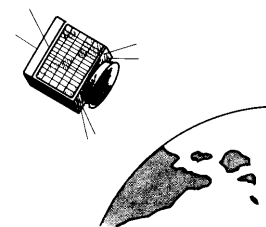
The ARRL this week put officials in Manassas, Virginia, on notice that the League will act on behalf of its members to ensure full compliance with FCC regulations when the city's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) system starts up in a few months. The League was responding to media reports that Manassas—a Washington, DC, suburb—has approved plans for a citywide BPL rollout. Manassas City Council reportedly voted unanimously October 16 to grant a 10-year franchise to Prospect Street Broadband to expand a BPL field trial and offer high-speed Internet service to the entire community over municipal power lines. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, on October 22 faxed Manassas Mayor Marvin L. Gillum to point out BPL's dark side—the potential for RF interference from and to any BPL system.

Propagation de K7RA

(October 30, 2003) ARRL

Solar excitement continued this week. As this bulletin is being written Thursday night, an extreme geomagnetic storm is in progress. The mid latitude K index has been as high as 9, and severe space weather is predicted for the short term. Average daily sunspot numbers more than doubled this week to 201.4. Average daily solar flux was nearly double the previous week at 249. Average daily sunspot numbers for the week as reported in this bulletin have not been this high since the week of November 7-13, 2002, when it was 205.4. For solar flux, we go back to the week of January 24-30, 2002 when the average daily solar flux was 249.6.

On Friday, October 24, a coronal mass ejection swept by earth around 1500z. The planetary K index went as high as 7, and aurora borealis was seen as far as the southern United States. On Sunday, October 26 an X-class solar flare at 0650z was followed by another one twelve hours later at 1850z. On October 28 one of the most powerful solar flares seen in many years hurled a cloud of particles traveling 5,000,000 miles per hour toward earth. This triggered an S-3 class solar radiation storm, and the next day the planetary A index shot up to 189, and mid-latitude A index was 199. On that day, October 29, an intense geomagnetic storm raged in response to a coronal mass ejection that hit earth around 0630z. Another powerful coronal mass ejection hit earth on October 30. Check the web site, http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/solar_flare_031028.html for a news article on the major flares and resulting storms.



NETS

W6CX ATV Nets

Coffee Net	Saturday 8:00am Sunday 8:00am
Electronics Class	Wednesday 7:30pm Net Control: KF6IQL
General ATV Net	Thursday 8:00pm

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursday, 7:00pm	145.680 Simplex
Central County	Jim Brunk, N6BHX
East County	146.535 Simplex
	Drew Hanson, KD6GLY
South County	146.355/+ (100 PL)
	Ed Ritchie, K6SFD
West County	145.110/-
	Rich Parker, KD6JCT

ANAHEIM, CA

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(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

2416 W. Victory Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, KA6IHT, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista
1 mi. west I-5
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA

5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(619) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Howard, KE6PWH, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE

(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Jim, KA3LLL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR

11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 854-6046
Leon, N7LXX, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO

8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
Joe, KD0GA, Mgr.
John, N5EHP, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ

1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA

6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

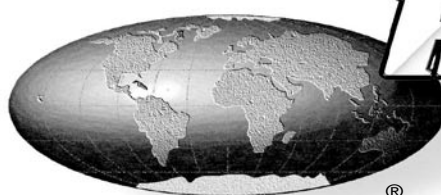
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Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
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SALEM, NH

(Near Boston)
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 - Internet WIREless compatible
- Great Price!**



FT-100D HF/6M/2M/70CM Trans.

- Compact Transceiver w/detachable front panel
 - Rx 100kHz to 970mHz (cell blocked)
 - Tx 100W 160-6M, 50w 2M, 20W 70CM
 - Built-in DSP, Vox, CW keyer
 - 300 Memories
- Low Pricing!**



FT-1000MP MKV HF Trans.

- Enhanced Digital Signal Processing
 - Dual RX
 - Collins SSB filter built-in
 - 200W, External power supply
- Low Pricing!**

ALINCO



DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS + DCS built in
- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!



DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 3	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord
November 21	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
November 30		December Carrier Deadline	
December 1	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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Change in Service Requested

MDARC Meeting: November 21

2004 Ballot

Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

This is the official ballot of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club for the officers for the 2004 calendar year. Ballots may be mailed or cast at the membership meeting. Mailed ballots must be sent, postage paid, in time to arrive by 5:00 PM November 21, 2003 to:

Nominating Committee, MDARC
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA. 94532

Ballots may be cast in person by delivering them to the General Meeting held at 7:30 PM on November 21, 2003 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA.

All ballots must be deposited no later than 7:45 PM. Please mark the ballot with an "X" opposite the name of the person for whom you are voting. Print the first and last name of any write-in candidate. The Nominating Committee will determine the eligibility of any write-in candidate after ballot counting is completed.

Office	Candidate (Vote for One)	"X"
President	Trevor Hall, WA6JAU	
Vice President	Bob Beard, KG6FPZ	
Secretary	Richard Schulze, AA6DL	
Treasurer	Harold Johnsen, AE6FC	
Emergency Coordinator	Dana Jones, K6BRR	
Director (Vote for Two)	Richard Brown, KT6X	
	Jay Caldis, KT6Y	